

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /076 W

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P R 062138Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 0527

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, EAID, OECD

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION IN LISBON AND PARIS ON POSSIBLE

OECD WORKING PARTY ON PORTUGAL

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 30612 ; (B) OECD PARIS

33864 DATED 12/30/75

1. SUMMARY: IN PAPER SENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL WOOTTON BY HEAD OF OECD TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICE (TECO), DERRY ORMOND REPORTS THAT HE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF REACTIVATING IDEA OF A COUNCIL WORKING PARTY WITH PORTUGUESE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF FINANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND GOVERNOR OF BANK OF PORTUGAL. REACTIONS WERE ALL "CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE." NON-COMMITAL RECEPTION GIVEN TO IDEA BY OECD PERMANENT REPS FROM MAJOR COUNTRIES WHEN RAISED FIRST TIME BY SEC-GEN VAN LENNEP AT RECENT LUNCHEON. END SUMMARY.

2. TECO'S ORMOND REPORTS THAT PORTUGUESE MAIN CONCERN

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EXPRESSED WAS THAT SUCH A MECHANISM SHOULD NOT BE CON-

STRUED TO BE A METHOD OF PUTTING UNACCEPTABLE PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL. IT WAS THUS FELT IMPORTANT THAT THE WORKING PARTY SHOULD BE CLEARLY RECOGNIZED AT THE OUTSET AS A METHOD OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND NOT FOR "COORDINATION" OF OUTSIDE AID TO PORTUGAL, WHICH WAS SEEN TO BE PORTUGAL'S EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY. IN THE SAME VEIN, IT WAS UNDERLINED THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD BE THE ONE TO INITIATE THE IDEA. AS AN INFORMATION GROUP, IT WAS FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBLIGATION TO SET FORMAL TARGETS FOR AID IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES. VIEWED FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE WORKING PARTY MAY RUN INTO SOME TROUBLE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PARTY RIVALRIES. SPECIFICALLY, A GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ENTER INTO AN INITIATIVE OF THIS KIND WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENT FROM SEVERAL KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO, AT PRESENT, IT WOULD APPEAR, DO NOT ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE ONE OF FURTHER CONSULTATION. ON PORTUGUESE SIDE, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE TO BE CONSULTED. ORMOND STATED OFFICIALS CONTACTED ALSO INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT REACTIONS MIGHT BE OF OTHER OECD-MEMBER COUNTRIES OTHER THAN U.S.

4. AT INFORMAL LUNCHEON OF MAJOR OECD-COUNTRY PERMREPS ON FEBRUARY 5, SEC-GEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF REVIVING WITH PORTUGAL THE PROPOSAL FOR AN OECD COUNCIL WORKING PARTY (REFTELS (A) AND (B) TO ADVISE AND ASSIST RE ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS WITH PORTUGAL ON THE SUBJECT, AND THE PORTUGUESE HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT, WITH TWO CONDITIONS:

(1) PORTUGAL WOULD HAVE TO ASK THAT SUCH A WORKING PARTY BE FORMED. (2) THEY WOULD SEE THE GROUP AS A FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION EXCHANGE RATHER THAN AS A FORMAL COORDINATING MACHINERY, AND SPECIFIED THAT LISBON WOULD HAVE TO COORDINATE ANY AID OR ACTIVITY RESULTING FROM THE WP. OTHER PERMREPS WHO WERE OBVIOUSLY UNBRIEFED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR HAD NO PRIOR NOTICE OF THIS MERELY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PURPOSE AND URGENCY OF THE PROPOSAL. TURNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP03882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0685
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacnco.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OECD PARIS 30612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION IN LISBON AND PARIS ON POSSIBLE OECD WORKING PARTY ON PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006